fluorides, excess iron etc. till April, 1998. Since then, powers to approve and implement Sub Mission projects have been delegated to the State Governments. State Governments have repeatedly been requested to sanction more and more such projects to provide safe drinking water to rural habitations.

Industries in rural areas

†2300. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether apart from the Agriculture sector, the Government have also explored the possibilities of the extension of industries in the rural areas in the country;

(b) if so, names of the industries along with names of the rural areas in the country where these industries can be set up; and

(c) their estimated contribution in the GDP of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is not implementing any Scheme specifically for financing industries in rural areas. However, the Ministry is implementing Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) for Self Employment of the families living below the poverty line in rural areas of the Country except Union Territories of Delhi and Chandigarh.

Under the Scheme, each block may identify about 10 Key activities based on the local resources, aptitude as well as skill of the people and the market potential. The Key activities are selected in consultation with the Banks and Line Departments which could also include Village and Cottage industries. Activities identified as Key activity are financed with Subsidy and Bank credit under the SGSY.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.